



PATENT
Docket No. 150.01180101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Brian A. VAARTSTRA) Group Art Unit: 2814

Serial No.: 10/032,049) Examiner: Thao Le

Confirmation No.: 5131)

Filed: December 21, 2001)

For: METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF METAL-CONTAINING SURFACES USING
HALOGENS AND HALIDE SALTS

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop RCE
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed March 19, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 10, 23, and 39 and amend claims 1, 11, 18, 24, 37, 40, 52, and 53. The new and amended claims are provided below in clean form. Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, amended claims are also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate changes made (for convenience, all pending claims, including those added hereby, are provided in Appendix A).

1. (Amended) A planarization method comprising:
 - positioning a metal-containing surface of a substrate to interface with a polishing surface, wherein the metal-containing surface comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of a Group VIII B metal, a Group IB metal, and a combination thereof;
 - supplying a planarization composition in proximity to the interface; and
 - planarizing the substrate surface;